

maniacal excitement. At the *post-mortem* examination eight stones were removed from the intestines, one an inch and a quarter in length and half an inch thick, and two rectangular stones almost as large, as well as smaller ones.

FARMING VS. INSANITY.

In the report of the superintendent of the Harrisburg hospital, the generally received opinion that farmers are particularly liable to insanity is combated. Thirteen of the last year's admissions were farmers and farm laborers. An exhaustive analysis of these cases shows heredity to have been a dominant factor in all, and, says Dr. Gerhard, "It would be unjust to blame the occupation as having been the cause of the insanity. They would have probably become insane no matter what their occupation, and they became insane not because of it, but in spite of it. Farming, although a laborious and often a monotonous occupation, is not one that is conducive to the production of insanity. It is one of the most independent and healthful occupations that can be chosen by any young man, and the boy who leaves the farm for the precarious living that he may pick up in town or city runs much greater risks in every way than if he would remain in the country."

FRACTURED RIBS IN THE INSANE.

It is popularly believed that the ribs of the insane are more brittle and therefore more easily fractured than those of persons in perfect health. Dr. J. Claye Shaw (St. Bartholomew's Hospital Report, xxvi., 1890) has investigated this point, determining the comparative strength of ribs in various forms of insanity by ascertaining the breaking weight of a rib fixed at one point and arranged to carry weights at the other.

From an examination of forty-one cases, he arrives at the following conclusions:

1. "That a considerable difference is found to exist not only in the weight of the ribs on the two sides of the body, but also in the average breaking weight."

2. "That the lighter rib is often found to bear the heavier weight, and that there is no proportion between the weight of the rib and the number of pounds it is capable of sustaining, whence it would appear that physical conditions of

structure have more to do with the strain-resisting power than has chemical change."

3. "That persons suffering from diseases of the heart or blood-vessels have less strain than others."

4. "That persons suffering from advanced constitutional disease, such as phthisis, may have ribs that support a strain above the average, and hence, that there is no direct relation between constitutional strength and that of the ribs."

5. "That when a blow causes a fracture, this is dependent not so much on the weight of the rib and the power of bearing strain as on other conditions."

6. "That though we have not had the opportunity of comparing the breaking weight of ribs here with those of patients dying in general hospitals, yet from the fact that many of the cases examined here died from diseases identical with the latter, and that the insanity in our cases was often more of a functional than an organic character, and that these patients were often in strong bodily health up to the time of their illness, it would seem that the dictum that the ribs of the insane are more brittle than those of the sane is true to a very limited extent only, and is almost confined to those affected with degeneration of the circulatory system."